

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATIONS OF ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HELD AT EDUCATION HOUSE, MARY STREET, BRISBANE
ON THURSDAY, 14 APRIL, 1994
COMMENCING AT 10 A M

CHAIRMAN OF MEETING

By general agreement, it was resolved that Frank O'Connor of Western Australia, would chair the meeting and that the Queensland Federation would undertake the secretarial functions.

ATTENDANCE

NAME	REPRESENTING
Dan Henry	Victorian Registrar of Co-operatives
Barbara Brapshaw	Nthn. Territory Registrar of Co-ops.
Ian Keightley	ACT Registrar of Co-operatives
Roosi de Barros	Finance Officer, Qld Treasury
	Representing Registrar of Co-ops and Other Societies
X Frank O'Connor	Director, Co-op. Fed'n. of W A
X David Osgood	Co-operative Fed'n. of S A
Wayne Pearson	Director, Co-op. Fed'n. of Qld.
Don Kinnersley	Co-operative Fed'n. of NSW
X Chris Connors	Chairman, Co-op. Fed'n. of Qld.
Sax Maingay	Director, co-op. Fed'n. of Qld.
Lou Raiteri	- Co-op. Fed'n. of Qld.
Pat Taylor	Deputy Registrar, Primary Producers' Co-operatives Qld.
Tony Connor	Executive Officer, Co-op. Fed'n. of Qld.
Garry Cronan	NSW Registry of Co-ops.
Jenni Mattila	Tress Cocks & Maddox (Solicitors)
Tim Dyce	Asia-Pacific Co-op. Training Centre
Jim Howard	Registrar, Primary Producers' Co-operatives Qld.

APOLOGIES

Jordan Rigby, NSW Federation
Jim McCall, NSW Co-op. Development League
Malcolm Drew, S A Federation
Don Munro, W A Federation

OPENING REMARKS

Reference was made to the agenda for this meeting which had been proposed by Jim McCall, of the NSW Co-operative Development League. The meeting had been called principally to decide whether the State Co-operative Federations should form a national body and if so, to settle on a name for that body. The name proposed was "The National Co-operatives Council of Australia".

PERMANENT STRUCTURE OF THE PROPOSED COUNCIL
AND DRAFT CHARTER

It was agreed that there was a need for this meeting to settle on a Charter for the proposed national co-operative body, including approved membership.

Don Kinnersley: said that his Federation believes that the national body should comprise only State Federations. Membership by other bodies could cause problems in the future. Noted that the Co-operative Development League was not a member of the NSW Federation, but would qualify for membership.

Tim Dyce: understood NSW position. Asia-Pacific's Chairman has no problems with his organisation not being a member of a National Council. The Asia-Pacific Centre has a strong commitment to the co-operative sector and would like to continue close co-operation with the national body.

The Asia-Pacific Centre would like to be able to attend NCCA meetings as necessary and would appreciate it if NCCA could pass a resolution recognising the Asia-Pacific Centre as the principal training body for co-operatives throughout Australia. It is a member of the Victorian Federation.

David Osgood: South Australia accepts the concept of a national body and agrees that the NCCA should comprise State bodies only.

Western Australia held a similar position.

Chris Connors: Queensland has been in the dark about the Co-op. Dev. League's charter/role etc. Disappointed that Jim McCall was not able to be at this meeting. Queensland felt that if the two non-state federation bodies could put up a case for membership, then they could be members of the NCCA. This has not happened.

RESOLVED BY AGREEMENT that the National Co-operative Council of Australia should be restricted to State Federations only, with no provision for associate membership.

There was a general feeling that each State should have one vote. When meetings are held in a particular State, then other members of that State's Federation would be free to attend.

South Australia said that there was a need for appointment of an alternate or proxy for meetings.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the request from The Asia-Pacific Centre. Following a brief discussion, it was:

MOVED DON KINNERSLEY, SECONDED CHRIS CONNORS that the Asia-Pacific Co-operative Development Centre be recognised by the National Co-operatives Council of Australia as the principal provider of education and training for management and Directors of co-operatives throughout Australia.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was AGREED that, at this stage, there was no need for formal registration of the National Council. However, it was noted that the Co-operative Federation of Australia still exists.

The meeting then went on to discuss, in detail, the draft charter for the NCCA. The proposed revised charter is attached to these minutes.

Following discussion of the draft Charter, it was:

MOVED DAVID OSGOOD, SECONDED DON KINNERSLEY that Western Australia provide the Secretariat for the next 12 months and that Frank O'Connor be elected Chairman of the NCCA for the next 12 months.

Frank O'Connor accepted nomination and was unanimously elected as inaugural Chairman of the National Co-operatives Council of Australia.

INTERSTATE DIVISION

This matter was set aside for discussion at the joint meeting with the Registrars later in the day.

TAXATION

Chris Connors reported that the draft ruling by the Taxation Department on dividends and rebates had been "dumped" by the Department. This means that dividends and rebates will continue to be deductions for the year in which they apply rather than the year in which they are paid.

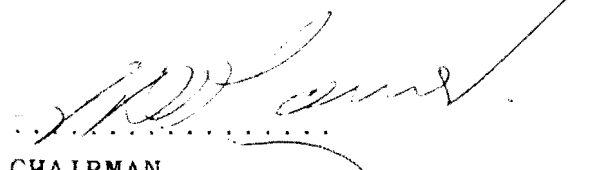
DRAFT CHARTER

It was agreed that the revised draft Charter should be submitted back to State Federations and be discussed again at the next meeting of this Council. New South Wales reported that there was to be a Co-operatives Conference in Sydney on 19 and 20 October, 1994. Therefore, a suggested date for the next meeting was Friday, 21 October, 1994, in Sydney.

That meeting should future policy and actions which the NCCA might take.

The meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.

CONFIRMED



CHAIRMAN

PROPOSED DRAFT CHARTER FOR
THE NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVES COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

AS REVISED AND AGREED AT THE MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF STATE FEDERATIONS IN BRISBANE
ON 14 APRIL, 1994

The National Co-operatives Council of Australia is founded as a representative body for the advancement and protection of Australia's co-operatives and co-operation in all its forms.

The Council will develop strategies and consider action to be taken on matters of national significance to member bodies.

The Council is founded by co-operatives through the States' Co-operative Federations.

The foundation Federations retain absolute autonomy and sovereignty over their own affairs.

The Council is empowered to use any means approved by its members to secure the protection and advancement of co-operatives and co-operation through developing and maintaining a proper relationship with the Federal Government and its Public Sector Agencies; national Private Sector Agencies and Corporations; the national media; and the Australian Public.

STRUCTURE

1. The Council membership shall comprise the Co-operative Federations of: Western Australia; South Australia; Queensland; Victoria; and New South Wales.

2. No new member shall be admitted unless it has embodied in its Registered Rules a statement committing it to observance of the six internationally recognized principles of co-operation.

3. The Council will be an unincorporated body committed to and operating under the six internationally recognized principles.

4. The Council may create policy and develop and implement strategies considered most appropriate as a means of bringing these policies to fruition. In the case of new policy or alteration to existing policy, each member of the Council must carry any such proposal to the Board of his or her Federation for ratification and such proposal shall not become policy of Council unless passed by a two-thirds majority of members present at a meeting of the Council.

GOVERNANCE

5. The Council shall consist of one nominee of each of the member organisations. Each member must present to the Council a letter from the member body he or she is to represent on Council nominating that person to be the member's representative at Council meetings. A quorum at Council meetings shall be three members. A member organisation may appoint, in writing, a delegate representative from time to time.

6. The Council shall meet at least once in each calendar year and at other times as required.

7. There shall be a Chairman of the Council who shall be elected by the members of the Council. The Chairman shall hold office for the financial year for which he or she is elected to hold office.

8. The Chairmanship should rotate from State to State.

9. The Secretariat for the Council should preferably be provided by the State from which the Chairman is elected.

10. Meetings of Council will be conducted in accordance with the generally accepted procedures for Board Meetings. The minutes of Council meetings will be ratified at the next meeting of the Council.

11. No member shall be entitled to take any action or proceeding whatsoever for damages by way of injunction against the Council or any officer of the Council and/or against the Executive or any member of the Executive for any matter, act or thing done or purporting to be done under any of the provisions of this Charter, notwithstanding that any such act, matter or thing was done in contravention of the rules or by-laws, the intention being that in all such matters, the Executive, subject to the control of the Council in general meeting shall be the sole tribunal to decide all such matters and if any such action or proceeding be brought, this Rule may be pleaded as an absolute bar.

[Adapted from Clause 31 of W A Constitution]

12. The Council must respect the integrity and autonomy of each constituent member and not infringe on any member's Charter.

13. This Charter may be amended from time to time with the consent in writing of three-quarters of the membership.

[Disclaimer clause to be inserted here - format?].